

Appl. No.: 09/592,309

PATENT  
Docket No. EPI-024 US  
7008092001REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and subject to examination. Claims 1-4 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,687 to Craig ("Craig") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,444 to Fin et al. ("Fin"). Claims 5-8 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Craig in view of Fin, and further in view of *Using Microsoft Powerpoint 2000* by Rutledge et al. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, and 11 have been amended.

Claim 1 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Craig in view of Fin. It is noted that claim 1 has been amended by this Amendment. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claim currently pending, the rejection is respectfully traversed, as follows.

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for interactive communications over a network. The apparatus includes "computer instructions for receiving additional information entered in a shared web browser white board from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein said other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information *in the shared web browser white board without altering the information displayed in the shared web browser*, and wherein the additional information is entered by a user of a computer from the plurality of other computers to be associated with the already displayed information" and "computer instructions for receiving text-based conferencing information from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein said other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the text-based conferencing information *without altering the information displayed in the shared web browser*" (emphasis added). As the Office Action concedes on page 3, Craig neither teaches nor suggests these limitations. The Office Action cites Fin to correct these deficiencies.

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Fin teaches an internet web page sharing system wherein users may point or mark areas of the displayed web document. As illustrated in Fig. 13 and described in col. 19, lines 34-52, "a new web document 1350 is open by one of the users (customer or bank agent), the same document will be displayed on the screen of another user....By using the functionality of the message redirector, the key strokes typed by the customer for the account name will also appear in the corresponding account name field on the bank customer's screen...the customer 1310 and the bank agent 1320 may use the Annotation 142 and Remote Pointer 144 to mark and point to the areas on the application form." Thus, as shown in Fig. 13, any information entered by the customer or bank agent will appear within the web document 1350.

Thus, neither Fin nor any of the other cited art teaches or suggests "computer instructions for receiving additional information entered in a shared web browser white board from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein said other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the additional information *in the shared web browser white board without altering the information displayed in the shared web browser,* and wherein the additional information is entered by a user of a computer from the plurality of other computers to be associated with the already displayed information" or "computer instructions for receiving text-based conferencing information from at least one of the other computers over the network, wherein said other computers and said leader computer each generally simultaneously display the text-based conferencing information *without altering the information displayed in the shared web browser,*" as recited in amended claim 1 (emphasis added). Claim 1 is therefore patentable over the art of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

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Claim 5, 8, 9, and 11 recite similar language to claim 1, and are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10 are dependent on independent claims 1, 5, and 9, respectively, and are patentable for at least those reasons discussed above with reference to the independent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-11 is respectfully requested.

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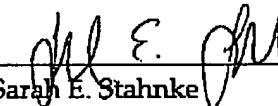
CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks. The Examiner may call the Assignee's attorney at the number below to further advance prosecution of this case to issuance.

Assignee also respectfully requests that the Attorney Docket No. be corrected from [000399] to reflect the Bingham McCutchen Docket number: EPI-024 US (7008092001).

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